

## Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2901

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 2576

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y T E X T

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, IO, AS

SUBJECT: US/AUSTRALIAN CONSULTATIONS ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

1. FOLLOWING IS BIO INFORMATION ON MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM TRAVELING FROM CANBERRA TO THE US/AUSTRALIAN CONSULTATIVE SESSIONS ON THE INDIAN OCEAN NEXT WEEK.

2. WILLIAM B. PRITCHETT, FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR POLICY COORDINATION, AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE: BILL PRITCHETT IS WELL KNOWN TO WASHINGTON HANDS WHO HAVE DEALT WITH AUSTRALIAN AFFAIRS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. HE HAS BEEN TO WASHINGTON A NUMBER OF TIMES, AND HAS HEADED A NUMBER OF PREVIOUS AUSTRALIAN DELEGATIONS, AMONG THEM THE ONE WHICH RENEGOTIATED PROVISIONS COVERING THE JOINT US/AUSTRALIAN NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY AT NORTH WEST CAPE. HE IS PERSONALLY CLOSE TO SIR ARTHUR TANGE, PERMANENT SECRETARY OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE, WHOM HE MAY IN TIME SUCCEED. HE IS FRIENDLY TO AMERICA AND AMERICANS, BUT CAN BE EXPECTED TO STRONGLY DEFEND AUSTRALIA'S INTERESTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA AND THE NEED FOR NOT COMPROMISING THE DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES BY AGREEMENTS WITH THE SOVIET UNION WHICH WOULD PUT AUSTRALIA IN THE POSITION OF FORCING THE US TO CHOOSE  
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BETWEEN ITS LARGER INTERESTS OF DETENTE WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS OBLIGATION TO ITS AUSTRALIAN ALLY.

3. REAR ADMIRAL PETER H. DOYLE, CHIEF OF JOINT OPERATIONS AND PLANS DESIGNATE: PETER DOYLE IS WELL KNOWN TO OUR DEFENSE ATTACHE STAFF, WHO DESCRIBE HIM AS FRINDLY TO THE US, EASY TO GET ALONG WITH, BUT SOMETHING OF AN "OLD

SCHOOL" NAVAL OFFICER WHO IS PRICKLY IN HIS OWN SHIP AND IN HIS RELATIONS ELSEWHERE IN THE RAN. HE HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE US BEFORE WHEN HE WAS COMMANDING OFFICER OF HMAS/PERTH WHEN IT WAS STATIONED OFF VIETNAMESE WATERS, AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY COMMANDING OFFICER OF HMAS/ MELBOURNE (AUSTRALIA'S ONLY AIRCRAFT CARRIER). HE WAS THE AUSTRALIAN NAVAL OFFICER COMMANDING IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA FOR THREE YEARS, WHICH GAVE HIM RELATIVELY STRONG VIEWS ON THE INDIVISIBILITY OF AUSTRALIAN CONTINENTAL DEFENSE, AND COLLATERALLY, THE NEED FOR INSURING THAT AUSTRALIA'S INDIAN OCEAN PERIPHERY IS NOT FORGOTTEN.

4. AIR VICE MARSHAL S.D. EVANS, ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE AIR STAFF: DAVID (OR DAVE) EVANS IS A BRAND NEW AIR VICE MARSHAL, A HIGHLY RESPECTED HARD CHARGING OFFICER WHO HAS COME FROM THE AVIATION WING, AND WHO CLEARLY INTENDS TO BE CHIEF OF THE AIR STAFF SOMEDAY. HE CAN BE ABRASIVE TO BOTH HIS CONTEMPORARIES AND HIS SUPERIORS, PRINCIPALLY AS A RESULT OF HIS PERSONAL DYNAMISM (DOESN'T SUFFER FTOLS LIGHTLY, OR EVEN NECESSARILY AT ALL). HE IS STRONG MINDED AND DECISIVE; HE LIKES THE US, KNOWS US AND IS FRIENDLY, AND MOST RECENTLY COMMANDED RAAF AMBERELY, THE HOME OF THE RAAF'S . HIS CONNECTION WITH THE F-111 FORCE WILL GIVE HIM A STRONG INTEREST IN THE "LAND BASED STRIKE AIRCRAFT" TIE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN TALKS; HE IS A FIRM BELIEVER IN THE UTILITY OF TACTICAL CONFIDENTIAL

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AIR, AND THE NEED TO INSURE FLEXIBILITY IN THE USE OF TACTICAL AIR RESOURCES.

5. JOHN R. BURGESS, ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR DEFENCE POLICY, DEFENCE DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: JOHN BURGESS IS, IN TERMS OF AGE AND RANK, THE JUNIOR MAN ON THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM, ALTHOUGH HE IS THE SENIOR FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL WITH RESPONSIBILITIES OVER THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA. HE HAS JUST RETURNED FROM

AN ASSIGNMENT IN MOSCOW, BEFORE WHICH HE HAD HEADED THE CHINA/KOREA SECTION OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE. HIS SPECIALTY IS SOUTH EAST AND EAST ASIA, BUT HE HAS HAD PREVIOUS EXPOSURE ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS TO ADOD SERVICE AND TRAINING COURSES. WE HAVE FOUND HIM TO BE A THOUGHTFUL OFFICER, TRAINED TO LOOK FOR SUBLETIES AND NUANCES, ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS AND IS FRIENDLY TO THE US BUT WHO IS STILL VERY MUCH GRASPING THE COMPLEXITY OF THE JOB HE HAS JUST MOVED INTO. HE HAS BEEN AN INVALUABLE CONTACT FOR THE EMBASSY.

6. ON A TOTALLY DIFFERENT BUT SOMEWHAT RELATED SUBJECT,

WE ARE CURRENTLY HANDICAPPED IN RAISING THE QUESTION OF  
P-3 FLIGHTS THROUGH SINGAPORE WITH THE FOREIGN OFFICE  
AND SENIOR LEVELS OF ADOD BY THE ABSENCE (FOR THE TALKS  
IN WASHINGTON) OF MOST OF THE SENIOR AUSTRALIAN OFFICIALS  
WHOSE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY INDIAN OCEAN AFFAIRS IS.  
WHILE WE WILL CARRY OUT OUR INSTRUCTIONS IN CANBERRA,  
AND REPORT FURTHER ON THEIR RESULTS, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH  
TO MENTION P-3 FLIGHTS THROUGH SINGAPORE AND OUR DESIRE  
FOR RAAF ASSISTANCE FROM THEIR FACILITIES AT TENGAH AIR  
BASE WITH THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM IN WASHINGTON.  
ALSTON

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## Message Attributes

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